

# The Strand

Early Intervention / Early Childhood Training Opportunities

Volume. 4 (6) June 2005

## LOCAL AND REGIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### CHILDSPAN Trainings:

#### **You and Me, Baby!: Supporting Social and Emotional Development in Infants**

A workshop for infant/toddler providers focused on activities and materials to incorporate into any infant program that will help promote social skills and positive emotional development.

Presenter: Nancy West, Professional Development Coordinator, CHILDSPAN

- Tuesday, June 28, 2005
- 6:30-8:30 PM

#### **Family Child Care from A-Z**

A six-session course for individuals interested in starting or improving a family child care program. Topics covered include: licensing, professionalism, health and nutrition, safety issues, parent communication, child development and developmentally appropriate activities. Participants must attend all six sessions.

Presenter: Joyce M. Gornie

- Tuesdays, June 14, 21, 28, 2005  
6:00-9:00 PM
- Thursdays, June 16, 23, 2005  
6:00-9:00 PM
- Saturday, June 25, 2005  
9:00-3:00 PM

For more information contact CHILDSPAN at 729-0765.

### RI Hospital Grand Rounds

#### ***The Faces of Autism: What I Learned in Summer Camp***

A presentation that will feature an overview of ASD, discussion of how pediatricians can better support families of children with Autism, and community resources available in RI.

Speaker: Regina A. Gargus, MD, Fellow, Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics, Center for Special Children, RI Hospital

- Friday, June 24, 2005
- 8:30-9:30 AM
- George Auditorium, RI Hospital

### RI Early Childhood Summer Institute 2005

#### ***Fostering Children's Social and Emotional Development: Addressing Challenging Behaviors in Inclusive Settings Serving Children Birth through Age 8***

This one week course is appropriate for practitioners and administrators of early childhood education and care programs in RI. This year's Institute will include: learning about curricular practices to support all children's positive social and emotional growth, exploring positive strategies for intervening with young children with challenging behaviors, learning how to better communicate with families around issues of social-emotional development, and learning more about the specific diagnoses of autism and sensory integration disorders amongst other topics.

- July 27-August 2, 2005
- URI Library, Kingston Campus

For more information or to register contact the URI College of Continuing Education at 277-5200.

## **Child Welfare League of America**

### ***New England Region Training Conference 2005***

~ September 28-30, 2005 ~  
~ Westin Hotel, Providence, RI ~

#### ***Sparking a Renaissance: Making Children a National Priority***

An exceptional opportunity for child welfare workers, child care and development professionals, foster parents, human service workers, advocates, mental health professionals, public and private providers, managers and administrators, community members, and parents!

This year's conference will focus on four themes: advocacy/messaging, best practice and effective program models, leveraging resources, and leadership/management issues.

Conference offerings include workshops on topics such as: ***The Importance of Collaboration and Family Involvement in the Infant and Toddler Years***, ***Through the Eyes of the Baby: Best Practices for Child Welfare and Family Court Professionals Serving Infants and Parents***, ***Coaching Preschool Teachers to Provide a Pro-social Program***, ***Ready, Set, Resilience: Promoting Preschoolers' Social and Emotional Health***, ***Best Practices in Foster Care: Attachment, Visitation, and Type of Placement***, ***Building Effective Crisis Management Plans for Aggressive Children and Youth***, ***Supporting Young Homeless Children and Families: How Can We Help?***, ***Quality Child Care for Children Who Are Homeless***, and many more.

To register or for more information contact the Child Welfare League of America at (202) 942-0305 or e-mail: [register@cwla.org](mailto:register@cwla.org) or [www.cwla.org](http://www.cwla.org)

## **The Autism Project of Rhode Island**

### ***A Starting Point***

*A Starting Point* is a 9-week training series for families of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, and the educators and professionals working with children with ASD. Topics covered include: Autism Spectrum Disorders defined, visual structures, communication, sensory integration and diet, independent work systems, social stories, and behavioral supports.

**Next Session:** September 22-November 17, 2005

- Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8:30 PM
- The Autism Project of RI, Cranston, RI

For more information, call 785-2666 or check the website: [www.theautismproject.org](http://www.theautismproject.org).

### ***Drive for Autism***

This 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament will benefit The Autism Project's summer camp "Move, Think, Create Communicate".

- Saturday, June 18, 2005
- Richmond Country Club

To register contact Michael Andoscia at 265-2882.

### ***Farm Fun Day at Frerichs Farm***

The Autism Project of RI and Frerichs Farm have partnered to offer this day filled with great activities for children, their families, friends and caregivers!

- Saturday, August 20, 2005
- Rain Date: Sunday, August 21, 2005

For more information visit [www.frerichsfarm.com](http://www.frerichsfarm.com).

## **Move, Think, Create, Communicate 2005**

### ***A Camp Program for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder***

This two week camp program is *for children ages 5-17* with an ASD diagnosis or related communication disorder. The camp offers a safe, fun environment that includes: a pool and nature trails, visual supports, sensory-based activities, relaxation techniques, highly skilled staff and program content that support play, social and communication skills and participation in group activities.

- Session I: August 15-19, 2005  
Session II: August 22-26, 2005
- Camp Champlin, Cranston, RI

For more information or to register a child, contact Connie Rinehart at [Connie@theautismproject.org](mailto:Connie@theautismproject.org) or call 785-2666.

### ***Learn to Talk Around the Clock: Early Intervention with Infants, Toddlers, and Families***

*A Comprehensive Language and Listening  
Intervention Program for Families of Children with  
a Hearing Loss.*

This one-day workshop will provide participants with practical, family-centered strategies to aid in supporting families of young children with a hearing loss. Topics covered include: *The Impact of Hearing Loss on Infants, Toddlers, and Families, Language: Signature Behaviors, Auditory Signature Behaviors, The Journey of Family-Centered Intervention, Home as the Classroom and Thematic Units as the Curriculum, Coaching as an Instructional Method for Parents, and Language Interactions in the Classroom.*

- Presenter: Karen Rossi
- September 16, 2005
- 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

For more information, contact Laura N. Peterson, Ed., CCC/SLP at 886-7755 or e-mail [hearlaura@cox.net](mailto:hearlaura@cox.net)

## **Therapeutic Approaches to Family and Behavioral Challenges in Early Childhood Intervention**

A one day seminar designed to help Early Childhood professionals identify factors influencing child and family behaviors and effectively manage challenging behaviors that disrupt therapy progress. Participants will learn about sensory integration and resiliency building strategies and how to apply them during therapy sessions.

- July 13, 2005
- Providence, RI

To register, contact Cross Country Education at 1-800-397-0180 or visit [www.express.crosscountryeducation.com](http://www.express.crosscountryeducation.com)

## **Wheelock College Summer Institutes**

An opportunity for professionals to exchange ideas and learn about current trends in early childhood, human services, education and other disciplines.

*Infant Mental Health: How Can We Support the  
Development of Early Relationships Between Infants  
and their Caregivers?*

- June 23-24, July 7-8, 2005
- Friday, 4:30-8:30 and Saturday 8:30-4:30 PM
- Presenter: Catherine Donahue Finn, Ed.D.

To register contact Wheelock College at (617) 879-2322 or [professionaldevelopment@wheelock.edu](mailto:professionaldevelopment@wheelock.edu)

## **The Village at Hillsgrove Dealing with Difficult People**

Social workers, nurses and other professionals are invited to attend this workshop on practical techniques for dealing with difficult people. Topics to be discussed include: the differences between difficult people and people in difficulty, recognizing the "drivers" that motivate difficult people, strategies and useful solutions during conflict and crises, alternatives useful in normal daily routines, how your personality influences the interactions, and retaining sensitivity and professionalism in dealing with difficult people.

Presenter: Jeanette Perlman, BA, MS

- Tuesday, June 21, 2005
- 8:00-10:00 AM
- Breakfast, Workshop and Q & A Session

To register contact Jenny Miller at 737-7222.

## **OUT-OF-STATE TRAININGS**

### **DIR 2005**

#### ***The Developmental, Individual-Differences, Relationship-Based Model for the Treatment of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders***

This interactive multi-disciplinary workshop will present the DIR Model for working with children with ASD. The workshop will focus on gaining an understanding of the significance of relationships to aid in growth and how to apply the DIR techniques in home-based and educational settings with children from infancy through early primary school years.

- Presenters: Jackie Bartell, Carol Markovics, Danielle Morris and Lori Jeanne Peloquin
- October 13-18, 2005 and four follow-up sessions from November 2005-March 2006.
- Spencerport, NY

For more information or to register call Lucy Fagan at (585) 352-2704.

### **Bank Street College Infant and Parent Development and Early Intervention Program**

#### ***18<sup>th</sup> Annual Infancy Institute***

The Institute will include workshops on topics such as infant development, routines and transitions, bilingual babies, attachment and separation, toddler behavior and motor and language development among others.

*Martha Edwards* of the Ackerman Institute for the Family will present "Attachment, Mastery, and Interdependence: Working Supportively with Parents and Their Infants and Toddlers."

- June 21-23, 2005
- New York, NY

For more information or to register visit [www.bankstreet.edu/infancyinstitute/](http://www.bankstreet.edu/infancyinstitute/) or call (212) 975-4728.

### **Division of Early Childhood DEC 2005**

#### **21st Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and their Families**

##### ***Sharing Our Vision: Present and Future Possibilities***

This year's conference will feature sessions on a variety of topics including assessment practices, measuring outcomes, personnel intervention strategies with many developmentally special populations (children with behavioral difficulties, visual impairments, autism, using assistive technology, etc.). The conference will also include a Career Fair and Poster Session.

- October 14-15, 2005
- Portland, Oregon

For more information and to register contact DEC at (406)-243-5898 or [www.dec.org](http://www.dec.org).

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

#### **Zero To Three 20<sup>th</sup> National Training Institute**

##### ***Keeping Babies on the Map Progressive Policies, Cutting-Edge Research and Innovative Practices***

NTI is considered the premiere training event for professionals who focus on early care, health, and education.

- November 4-6, 2005
- Hilton Washington, Washington DC

For more information or to register, contact Zero to Three at: (202) 624-1760  
[NTIregistration@meetingmgmt.com](mailto:NTIregistration@meetingmgmt.com) or visit [www.zerotothree.org](http://www.zerotothree.org).

## **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Birth to Three Institute** ***The Future is Now: Building a Strong Foundation for Life***

This national training is exclusively designed for Head Start providers, child care and community programs serving infants, toddlers and their families. The Institute will include sessions in Spanish and a Resource Fair.

- June 20-24, 2005
- Washington, DC

To register or for more information call Crystal Holman (202) 638-1144 or [cholman@zerotothree.org](mailto:cholman@zerotothree.org) or visit [www.ehsnrc.org](http://www.ehsnrc.org).

## **Educational Resources, Inc.**

Educational Resources, Inc. provides a variety of courses and trainings for professionals in the fields of rehabilitative and therapy services. Courses offered this summer include:

### **Oral-Motor, Feeding/Swallowing and Respiratory Coordination Function in Children with Neuromotor Involvement**

- Presenter: Rona Alexander
- August 10-12, 2005
- Braintree, MA

### **Autism, Auditory Processing Disorders and Apraxia**

- Presenter: Martha Burns
- September 23-24, 2005
- Braintree, MA

### **Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing: Big Decisions for Little Ones**

- Presenter: Joan C. Arvedson
- August 5-6, 2005
- Bayside, NY

### **Intervention for the High-Risk Infant: Providing Services in the NICU, Home and EI Programs**

- Presenter: Rosemarie Bigsby
- September 22-23, 2005
- Bayside, NY

To register visit [www.eritherapyseminars.com](http://www.eritherapyseminars.com).

Hampton Cares offers educational training and seminars to professionals in the field of occupational, speech and pediatric physical therapy. Seminars offered this summer include:

### ***Developing, Communication, Speech and Language Skills in Infants and Toddlers***

The seminar was designed for speech-language pathologists and special education teachers serving infants and children in homes or centers whose current level of language development is at or below a normally developing three year-old. The participants will be guided through the course handout and videotapes of sessions with infants and toddlers. The cognitive and social bases of first language acquisition will be emphasized. A decision making process for initial and on-going evaluation and discharge will be discussed.

- July 16-17
- New York, NY

For more information, contact Hampton Cares at (877) 439-9700 or [www.hamptoncares.com](http://www.hamptoncares.com)

## **WEB RESOURCES !!!**

### ***Designing Infant Child Care Programs to Meet the Needs of Children Born to Teenage Parents***

This site provides recommendations on how to design and carry out child care programs that are sensitive to the needs of teenage parents.

Available at:

[www.naeyc.org/resources/journal/itemdetail.asp?page=1&docID=2222&seSID=983827726818](http://www.naeyc.org/resources/journal/itemdetail.asp?page=1&docID=2222&seSID=983827726818)

## **Dads Make a Difference**

### ***A Celebration of Fathering and Families!***

Don't miss the fun on **Father's Day 2005** at this event honoring Dads. The day will include music, food, magic, "Super Dad" awards and interactive play at the Bright Horizons Growing Readers Tent (for children under age 5)!

Free admission for all.

- Sunday, June 19, 2005
- 1-5 PM
- Boston Common Parade Ground

For more information call  
(617) 451-0049 x285 or visit  
[www.dadsmakeadifference.com](http://www.dadsmakeadifference.com)

## **Women & Infants Hospital**

### ***Infant Massage Classes***

Babies love massage!

Families are invited to bring their infants to a class to learn simple techniques to help soothe a fussy baby or please a happy baby.

- July 12, 2005
- 1:30-3:30 PM
- Women & Infants Center for Health Education  
East Greenwich, RI

Or

- August 16, 2005
- 9:30-11:30 AM
- Women & Infants Center for Health Education  
Swansea, MA

For more information or to register visit the  
[www.womenandinfants.com](http://www.womenandinfants.com).

## **Family to Family of RI**

### ***Family Fun Day***

This annual event includes free food and activities for families of persons with a disability. Bring out your family, a blanket and join the celebration!

- August 6, 2005
- 11:00 AM-4:00 PM
- Slater Memorial Park, Pawtucket, RI

For more information, contact Barbara Torres at  
727-4144 x161 or e-mail [torres@ripin.org](mailto:torres@ripin.org)

## ***10<sup>th</sup> Annual Parents Retreat for Families Raising a Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder***

**June 25-26, 2005**

***Whispering Pines Conference Center  
West Greenwich, Rhode Island***

A relaxed and casual country atmosphere will offer opportunities for parents and caregivers to learn by exploring and reflecting on the rewards and challenges of raising a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Come make new friends and learn from other  
parents!**

For more information contact  
Community Autism Resources at  
(508) 677-9239 ext.14

## Rhode Island Parent Information Network

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### Summer Workshops

Workshops this summer include: “**The ABC’s of IEPs**”, “**Transition from EI to School**” and “**Transition from EI to School: The First IEP Meeting**”.

For locations or more information call 727-4144 x123.

### Early Intervention Online Support Group

Life is hectic and fast paced! It is difficult to find time for anything beyond our everyday activities!

To help families in this hectic pace we have created an on-line support group for Early Intervention family members. Pull up a comfy chair, a cup of hot coffee and join us!

Group home page:

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/EarlyIntervention>

Group email address:

[EarlyIntervention@yahoogroups.com](mailto:EarlyIntervention@yahoogroups.com)

- For more information please contact:  
Paula Reid, RIPIN Parent Consultant, at 727-4144 x122

### Father’s 1<sup>ST</sup> Network

The Father’s 1<sup>st</sup> Network is established to offer support to fathers of children with special needs, helping them to get involved, and be recognized for their involvement.

- Call Mike at 727-4144, x133 or visit the website at [www.fathers1st.org](http://www.fathers1st.org).

### Children With Special Health Care Needs

#### Parent Support Group

Come and meet with other parents of children with special health care needs who can offer you understanding, guidance and support. ***Childcare is provided for parents that would like to attend.***

This group meets on the first Monday of each month in the Child Development Center at Hasbro Children’s Hospital.

- For more information contact Diane Hernandez, RIPIN Parent Consultant, at 729-0008 ext. 292.

### Telephone Support for Parents of Children with Autism

As a resource for parents whose child was recently diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, The Autism Project of RI now has trained staff that are available to speak with parents over the phone.

***Parents can call 785-2666 Monday -Thursday from 9:30AM -2:30PM*** to get answers to questions about ASD and receive information about programs and resources in the community.

### Moms Club of Greater Providence

The Moms Club is a support group for stay at home mothers.

Activities include monthly meetings, gatherings at parks and members homes, outings for mothers and their children, family parties, playgroups for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children, babysitting coop, and service projects to help the community.

For more information call 862-2896 or visit [www.geocities.com/providencemomsclubT](http://www.geocities.com/providencemomsclubT).

### Newport Hospital Autism and PDD Support Group

This group meets at Newport Hospital in the Gudoian Conference Room on the last Monday of each month at 7:00 PM.

For more information contact Wendy Fournier at 683-6741.

### Bradley Hospital Parents Association Support Group

The Bradley Hospital Parents Association is a support group for parents and families of children with emotional, behavioral, or developmental disorders. Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month in the Pine Room on Bradley Hospital’s 1<sup>st</sup> floor in the Main Building.

For more information call 432-1205.

## **Pre-Literacy Outcomes for IFSPs : What Does That Mean for Early Intervention?**

*“The path to literacy begins with very simple adult behaviors that infants and toddlers find interesting or pleasing. Caregivers may respond to babies’ cooing, babbling, and other vocalizations; speak in warm, expressive voices in attending to children’s needs and playing with them; and recite nursery rhymes and other chants or verses with appealing rhythms and sound patterns.” (Neuman, Copple, and Bredekamp)*

This emphasis on literacy is recognized in the recently reauthorized. IDEA 2004 (the federal law that mandates Early Intervention and Special Education services). The new law contains a number of changes that will impact how we think about and provide services to eligible children and their families. One important change is that IFSPs (Individual Family Service Plans) will contain outcomes *“including pre-literacy and language, as developmentally appropriate for the child...”*.

What do we know about early literacy for infants and toddlers?

*“Early literacy does not mean teaching reading to infants and toddlers.” (Zero to Three: Center for Program Excellence).* The earliest components of emerging literacy and language are: 1) play, and 2) relationships. *“Play consumes much of a young child’s time and energy, and for many children, play is where writing and reading begin.” (Joan Brooks McLane and Gillian Dowley McNamee, Zero to Three Journal, 9/91).* EI service providers understand and consistently demonstrate the value of play with all the families they support.

**Very early literacy and language emerge within relationships.** *“In other words, early literacy development does not simply happen; rather, it is part of a social process, embedded in children’s relationships with parents, siblings, grandparents, friends, caretakers, and teachers.” ( McLane and McNamee)*

**The importance of early literacy cannot be overstated.** As indicated by Sharon Rosenketter and Joanne Knapp-Philo (Zero to Three Journal, 9/04. *“Learning to Read the World: Literacy in the First 3 Years”*): *“As media attention and public policy increasingly focus on improving literacy for all the nation’s children (U.S. department of Education, 2002), it is astounding that so little attention has been paid to the first 3 years of life.” “Failing to give children literacy experiences until they are in school can severely limit the reading and writing levels they will ultimately attain. It is vital for all children to have literacy experiences in schools and early childhood programs. Such access is even more critical for children with limited home experiences in literacy.” (Neuman, Copple, and Bredekamp. “Learning to Read and Write”)*

For children experiencing developmental delay and for families living in impoverished environments, literacy and language opportunities can make a critical difference!



## What does that mean for us in Early Intervention?

The EI system is in a good position to support family literacy with a variety of strategies: teaching families how to share books with infants and toddlers, organizing a lending library, informing families about ESL and literacy classes, reviewing paperwork together, assisting a family to obtain a library card, or organizing a family trip to the library.

**This is not so much a challenge or an addition to what we typically do in Early Intervention, but a shift in how we think about it.**

As RI's EI system addresses pre-literacy more proactively in IFSPs, service providers will need ideas and resources about pre-literacy in order to: a) have conversations with families about the importance of literacy and language for their child's development and success; and b) organize ideas for embedding literacy and language experiences within family or child care activities.

### **Simple and Creative Pre-Literacy Ideas for IFSP Outcomes and Strategies:**

- Talking/singing aloud about what you are doing
- Playing repetitive, predictable games
- Pointing out interesting events
- Asking open-ended questions
- Looking at/for pictures
- Using face-to-face parent-child talk
- Using gestures or signs
- Finger-painting and drawing
- Letting the child see the parent reading
- Displaying family photos
- Offering choices
- Letting a baby mouth a book
- Letting a toddler open and close a book
- Telling silly stories over and over

Training and technical assistance will be provided to all RI EI programs and then will be supported through the use of site-based 'Literacy Links' (contact staff in each program to function in a 'train the trainer' model and as a funnel for additional resources and ideas). Current training (HDF 298) will incorporate pre-literacy outcomes requirements. Available resources for pre-literacy and language activities fit nicely into our service delivery model of coaching adult caregivers and utilizing already established routines.

### **Pre-Literacy Resources**

[www.zerotothree.org/brainwonders/EarlyLiteracy](http://www.zerotothree.org/brainwonders/EarlyLiteracy)

[www.nectac.org/topics/literacy](http://www.nectac.org/topics/literacy)

[www.familit.org](http://www.familit.org)

[www.headstartinfo.org/infocenter/literacy](http://www.headstartinfo.org/infocenter/literacy)

[www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org)

Dickinson, D.K. and Tabors, P.O. (Eds.) "Beginning Literacy with Language". Baltimore: Paul H. Brooks.

Neuman, Susan B., Carol Copple, and Sue Bredekamp. "Learning to Read and Write: Developmentally Appropriate Practices for Young Children". NAEYC, Washington, DC. 1999

The training center is not responsible for training cancellations and changes. In addition, attendance to any of the trainings included in the newsletter does not imply authorized reimbursement from the Rhode Island Department of Human Services or any other agency.

If you know of any training opportunity and wish to publicize it in our next issue please contact Crystal Taveras at [ctaveras@mail.uri.edu](mailto:ctaveras@mail.uri.edu)



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